

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 EB-03 NEA-06 FEAE-00 COME-00

TRSE-00 SP-02 IO-03 DRC-01 CIEP-01 /061 W

----- 045583

R 060900Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3936

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0353

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, LU

SUBJECT: GOL COMMENTS ON US/EC CONSULTATIONS

SUMMARY: MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL WURTH SAID THAT US/EC CONSULTATION PROCEDURES WOULD BE APPROVED BY EC FOREIGN MINISTERS ON JUNE 10-11 ALTHOUGH NO DOCUMENT CONTAINING THE FORMULA WOULD BE ISSUED. WITH DANES AND DUTCH DIS-APPOINTED BY SAUDI REFUSAL TO LIFT EMBARGOES, FOREIGN MINISTER THORN MAY SUGGEST THAT EC ASK US TO INTERVENE WITH SAUDIS. REFERRING TO US OBJECTIONS TO CSCE MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION, WURTH COUNSELED AGAINST USING
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UK AS "TROJAN HORSE" IN EC AND ADVISED US TO USE OUR

"VIRTUAL VETO" OVER EC POLITICAL COOPERATION SPARINGLY.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 5 MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL PIERRE WURTH GAVE DCM HIS VIEWS ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF US/EC CONSULTATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE CONSULTATIONS PROCEDURE DISCUSSED BY THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AT GYMnich WOULD NOT BE FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE MINISTERS UNTIL THEIR JUNE 10-11 MEETINGS IN BONN, WURTH SAID THAT THE EXCHANGES NOW BEING CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE US AND FRG (THE LATTER AS EC PRESIDENT) HAD PROVED TO THE EC THAT CONSULTATION COULD BE MANAGED PRODUCTIVELY. WURTH EXPLAINED THAT NO TEXT COVERING US/EC CONSULTATION WILL BE ISSUED NEXT WEEK AND THE MINISTERS WILL APPROVE THE ARRANGEMENT IN THE FORM OF A TACIT AGREEMENT ONLY.

2. WHEN WURTH MAINTAINED THAT THE US SHOULD NO LONGER BE SUSPICIOUS OF THE EC/ARAB COOPERATION PROJECT, DCM REITERATED US WISHES FOR COMPLETE AND TIMELY CONSULTATION ON EC INITIATIVES. WURTH ADDED THAT THE DUTCH AND DANES WERE DISAPPOINTED BY RECENT OAPC DECISION NOT TO REMOVE EMBARGOES AFFECTING THEM ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NOT BLOCK EC/ARAB COOPERATION PROJECT SINCE ALGERIANS AND LIBYANS HAD EASED RESTRICTIONS. GIVEN CLOSENESS OF US-SAUDI ARABIAN TIES, WURTH SAID THAT JIDDA'S REFUSAL TO LIFT EMBARGO DIRECTED AT EC MEMBERS HAD LED TO SUSPICIONS THAT US ENCOURAGED SAUDI INTRANSIGENCE IN ORDER TO SLOW EC/ARAB COOPERATION. WURTH COMMENTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER THORN MIGHT ASK EC FOREIGN MINISTERS NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER ASKING THE US FORMALLY TO INTERVENE WITH SAUDIS ON BEHALF OF DUTCH AND DANES. EC REQUEST WOULD BE BASED ON APPEAL TO ATLANTIC POLITICAL COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY, ALTHOUGH WURTH WAS NOT SURE THAT FRENCH WOULD ENDORSE SUCH AN APPROACH.

3. WURTH THEN COMMENTED ON US OBJECTIONS TO MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION IN CSCE, SAYING THAT US WOULD HAVE TO MAKE ITS POINTS MORE FORCEFULLY AND CONVINCINGLY IF EC-9 IS TO BE SWAYED BY US VIEWS. IF US MAINTAINS ITS OPPOSITION TO MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION, WURTH CONCEDED EC MIGHT BE UNABLE TO ACHIEVE UNANIMITY ON THIS SUBJECT. NEVERTHELESS,
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THE US SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER WHETHER IT IS WORTH BLOCKING THIS EC INITIATIVE (WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS ESSENTIALLY "OF MARGINAL INTEREST TO THE US") AT THE COST OF ALIENATING THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS AND GIVING THE EC THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO "USE ITS VETO" ON MATTERS OF MARGINAL IMPORTANCE. IN THE LONG RUN, WURTH PREDICTED THAT AN "OVERUSE" OF US VETO OVER EC INITIATIVES WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO ALLEGE

THAT THE US IS TRYING TO ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE EC.

4. ELABORATING ON THE QUESTION OF WHAT POLITICAL INFLUENCE THE US SHOULD HAVE ON THE EC, WURTH SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UK IS WILLING TO ACT AS A "TROJAN HORSE" FOR THE US. WHILE FRANCE'S "FORMER" SYSTEMATIC OBJECTIONS TO US/EC COOPERATION GENERATED SYMPATHY FOR US POSITIONS, AN UNCONDITIONAL PRO-AMERICANISM ON THE PART OF HMG COULD PRODUCE CONSIDERABLE RESISTANCE TO US INITIATIVES FROM THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EC. WURTH EXPLAINED THAT ONLY A JUDICIOUS USE OF THE US "VETO POWER" WOULD CONVINCE THE EC THAT POLITICAL COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY COULD GOVERN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND EC. FARKAS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, AGREEMENTS, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUXEMB00353
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740145-0738
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740669/aaaachth.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOL COMMENTS ON US/EC CONSULTATIONS SUMMARY: MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL WURTH SAID THAT US/EC
TAGS: PFOR, EC, LU, US, XF, XG, EEC, CSCE, (WURTH, PIERRE), (THORN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005